(b) to (d) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was set up in 1986 with a view to increase the production of oilseeds and to make the country self-sufficient in edible oils. This was to be done through adoption of integrated and mission mode approach to production and processing technology, input services support and storage, marketing and processing support etc. As a result of concerted efforts, by the TMO, a large increase in oilseeds production has been achieved. The production of oilseeds which was 10.83 million tonnes in 1985-86 rose to 24.75 million tonnes in 1998-99. There has been a marginal decline in production during the last two year due to drought like conditions in major oilseeds producing states. In order to increase the production and the productivity of oilseeds in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in various states in the country. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided on various inputs like production and distribution of seed, distribution of seed mini-kits, distribution of improved farms implements, sprinkler sets, rhizobium culture and PSB/micro nutrients etc.. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst fanners, frontline demonstrations are organized by the I.C.A.R. Besides, block and integrated pest management demonstrations are organised through State Department of Agriculture. A new component of crash programme for quality seed production of groundnut and soybean has also been introduced during the Ninth Plan.

Main battle tank unveild by Pakistan

2613. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that. Pakistan has unveiled world's First Main Battle Tank build in collaboration with China; and

(b) if so, the extent to which Pakistani tank is superior to the Indian tanks in all respects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) There are reports indicating that Pakistan has built some tanks called Al Khalid, in collaboration with China. However, this tank is not superior to the tanks being inducted in the Indian army.

Indo-Israel Military Pact

2614.DR. A1XADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Israel are on the verge of sealing a Military-Nuclear Pact;

(b) if so, whether the terms and conditions in this regard have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shortage of engineers and aviation specialists in Air Force

† 2615. SHRI BACHANILEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air Force is facing a shortage of engineers and aviation specialists;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step so far to remove this shortage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) While there is an overall shortage of engineers and aeronautical engineers in the Indian Air Force, the combat units are being manned almost at 100% level by making some internal adjustments.

Sustained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to the IAF. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly to generate interest. A website is also operative on the internet to provide career information.

Secret Message Faxed to V.P. Singh

2616. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Sensitive Defence message lands on V.P. Singh's FAX" published in the 'Times of India' dated the 20th July, 2001;

(b) if so, how a secret message was faxed in such a irresponsible manner and who is responsible for the same;

(c) whether similar secret messages are Faxed to the enemies;

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking immediate action in this regard; and

(e) the action being taken by Government to protect the Nation from such anti-national activities of the employees?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.